

# NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest  
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, [www.fs.usda.gov/colville](http://www.fs.usda.gov/colville)

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

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## *Washington Rural Heritage Grant Preserves Historic Documents*

**Colville, WA-** The Colville National Forest in partnership with the Libraries of Stevens County was successful in competing for the 2014-2015 Washington Rural Heritage Grant to digitize historic photographs, maps and documents that capture scenes of early Forest Service activities and life in northeast Washington from the early 1900's.

The Washington Rural Heritage grant through the Washington State Library will allow the digitization of historical photographs, documents and maps stored in the Heritage Department at the Forest Service Headquarters in Colville, WA. Some of the noteworthy examples of items that will be digitized in this effort include: historic photographs from the 1900s to 1950s that feature the activities of timber survey crews, firefighting crews, forest rangers, fire lookout staff and the lookout towers. Additionally, there are historic documents of logging and forest management activities, original homesteading cards, grazing allotments, cattle activities and some pre-1960 historic maps of the Colville National Forest.

"While the Colville National Forest allows as much public access to these ageing and delicate photos and documents as possible, we recently had to stop due to increasing damage and degradation. This grant will allow us to digitize many of our most important photos and documents and place them online so that everyone can access and enjoy them," says Forest Service Spokesman, Franklin Pemberton.

Once the items are scanned and properly cataloged, they will be available for public viewing on the Washington Rural Heritage website at: <http://www.washingtonruralheritage.org> "Without this great partnership with the Colville National Forest and the Washington State Library these documents could have been lost to future generations. Through this grant, these important documents will be available in the summer of 2015 for everyone to view and enjoy" said Teah Chadderdon, Spokeswoman for the Libraries of Stevens County.

For more information on this grant, please contact Evan Robb, Project Manager, Digital Repository Librarian at (360) 704-5228.

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*The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.*



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